GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3240
ANSWERED ON:15.04.2002
BIO-DRAINAGE SYSTEM
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "next Five Year Plan to focus on bio- drainage" appearing in the Times of India dated January 18, 2002;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to chalk out any plan for sub-surface drainage system;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether this system is likely to help avoid water logging and salinity which has become a major hazards for irrigation; and

(e) if so, the strategy firm-up in this regard ?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) & (c) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) have circulated tothe State Governments a manual on "Reclamation and management of waterlogged and salt affected areas in irrigation commands". The State Governments have been suggested to identify the waterlogged areas in irrigation projects included under centrally sponsored Command Area Development (CAD) Programme and prepare project proposals for their reclamation containing measures or combination of measures, including sub-surface drainage system, as suggested in the manual and as per the need of the problem areas.

(d) Yes, sir.

(e) The recommended approach in this regard is for adoption of sub-surface drainage system, vertical/horizontal, in combination with surface drainage system in cases where the ground water table is high and the ground water quality is good/poor. The bio-drainage system removes excess soil water through transpiration using bio-energy of the plant and is usually recommended for semi arid/arid areas. ministry of Water Resources have also constituted a working group for promoting and coordinating R&D activities for bio-drainage